

Utility Patent Application

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

5 Patent Application based on: Docket No. 01-915
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SHUFFLEBOARD GOLF PUTTER

RELATED APPLICATIONS

15 The present invention was first described in Disclosure Document
Registration Number 473,214 filed on 04/25/00, and is a continuation of U.S.
Provisional Patent No. 60/211,282 filed on 06/13/00

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

20 The present invention relates generally to golf putting devices including
alignment aids and the like and, more particularly, to a putter designed to be
used in an aligned fashion and including a pair of guiding side members.

2. Description of the Related Art

25 As is well known in the art, a number of different kinds of golf clubs, and

especially putters are known. Relevant of these golf putters, the prior art can generally be grouped into two categories: putter use aiding devices, and putt-training devices.

5 Putter use aiding devices are disclosed in the art as a means to assist the golfer in using a typical putter, or as an improved putter for use during a game of golf. For instance, an attachment to the shaft of a putter that aids in aligning the golf club at a right angle to a line between the ball and the hole. Others attach to the shaft of a putter and deploy to provide a guide for the putter user. The addition of an indicator surface to allows for contrast with the putting surface addresses the problem of the golfer's eyes having difficulty in simultaneously focusing on the ball, the club face, and the pointer of the putter guide concurrently and thereby losing sight of the pointer device.

10 Another problem that occurs from the use of a typical putter is the turning of the putter head while in use by the golfer. This putting error is caused by the imperceptible turning of the shaft of the putter as the head of the putter approaches or comes into contact with the ball. Numerous attempts have been made to correct for this problem.

15 Other methods for eliminating the putting error caused by the turning of the putter shaft during use are known. For instance, a putter device that includes an internal spinning gyroscope device inside the putter head to provide sufficient momentum necessary to prevent any "turning" of the shaft when the putter head

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approaches or comes in contact with the ball. However, a putter made in accordance with such references is associated with several drawbacks, the most significant of which is that a putter made in such a manner would not appear to meet all of the requirements and rules of the U.S. Golf Association.

5 Additionally, many putt-training devices are disclosed in the prior art that attempt to assist a golfer in developing proper, consistent habits that generally result from practice conducted with the proper information feedback.

10 A search of the prior art did not disclose any patents that read directly on the claims of the instant invention; however, the following references were considered related.

15 The following patents disclose the ornamental design for a golf putting head:

20 U.S. Patent no. D 422,328 issued in the name of *Lannoch*
 U.S. Patent no. D 422,041 issued in the name of *Bradford*
 U.S. Patent no. D 421,471 issued in the name of *Moldovan*
 U.S. Patent no. D 412,729 issued in the name of *Woodward*
 U.S. Patent no. D 410,716 issued in the name of *Bendo et al.*
 U.S. Patent no. D 408,878 issued in the name of *Patten*
 U.S. Patent no. D 399,274 issued in the name of *Bradford*
 U.S. Patent no. D 389,539 issued in the name of *Moore*

25 The following patents disclose the design and function for a golf putting training head:

 U.S. Patent no. 5,857,920 issued in the name of *Hong*
 U.S. Patent no. 5,458,332 issued in the name of *Fisher*
 U.S. Patent no. D 385,324 issued in the name of *Ubaney*

And, U.S. Patent no. D 367,909 issued in the name of *Lee* describes the ornamental device for a golf putting practice aid for use on a golf putter.

Consequently, a need has been felt for providing an apparatus and method of improving putting skills and assisting a golfer in practicing a number of aspects of putting, such as: keeping the putter off the ground during the swing before contact is made with the ball; preventing turning of the wrists during backswing, stroke, and follow through; and, providing energy transfer from club head to ball in a manner similar to that which occurs with regulation type putters.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved golf putting device.

It is a feature of the present invention to provide an improved golf putting device including alignment aids designed to be used in an aligned fashion and including a pair of guiding side members.

Briefly described according to one embodiment of the present invention, a golfer's putting aid is provided comprising a shaft and a club head having two ridged sides. The golfer stands behind the golfer's aid, aligns the golf ball with the aid, and strokes the ball toward the cup. This striking motion is reminiscent of shuffleboard style playing.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment, an advantage of the present

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to the present invention, having a linearly elongated handle 12 affixed at its lower end to a configured club head 14. The club head 14 has a first side ridge 18 mounted parallel to a second side ridge 20 opposite a center bridge 22.

Although various configurations are envisioned within the scope of the present teachings, for purposes of describing and disclosing the best mode the first side ridge 18 is symmetric with the second side ridge 20, each having an elipsisoidal upper curvature 28 opposite a rounded trapezoidal lower surface 30. The overall length of each side ridge 18, 20 is envisioned as 4-7/16 inches, with a smoother outer perimeter for allowing the lower surface 30 to slide easily across the surface of the grass or sand upon which it will be used.

The center bridge 22 spans between the first side ridge 18 and second side ridge 20, even along the upper curvature 28 of each respective ridge. However, the lower edge 34 of the center bridge 22 is upwardly offset from the lower surface 30, herein shown as a vertical offset of approximately 7/8 inch.

Mounted centrally to the center bridge 22 is a handle receiving orifice 36 for receiving the handle 12. The handle 12 itself is anticipated as being generally linearly elongated and having a cantilevered angled attachment portion 38 for attachment within the receiving orifice 36.

2. Operation of the Preferred Embodiment

In operation in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present

invention, a golfer stands behind the golfer's aid, aligns the golf ball with the aid, and stroke the ball toward the cup. This striking motion is reminiscent of shuffleboard style playing. The club head is designed such that the side runners of the putter rest on the putting surface, but the part of the putter that strikes the ball is not. Such an advantage gives the user an in-line sight as the ball is struck dead center each time under any conditions.

The foregoing description is included to illustrate the operation of the preferred embodiment and is not meant to limit the scope of the invention. The scope of the invention is to be limited only by the following claims.